

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Between Two Trees | Part 4: Waiting in the Garden

**BIG Idea:** Jesus entered Jerusalem as King—but He saves through surrender, not spectacle.

**Application:** Follow Jesus faithfully—even when His way challenges your expectations.

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***Is it possible to welcome the real Jesus while still resisting the true way He comes?***

1. The crowd welcomed the true King, but many expected the wrong kind of salvation.

**John 12:12-15** (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

<sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

<sup>15</sup>“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your king is coming,  
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

**Matthew 21:8-11** (NIV)

<sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

**They were right to cry for salvation, but wrong about how salvation would come.**

**We often want a King who will serve our agenda more than a Savior who will redeem our hearts.**

**A welcomed King is not always a surrendered-to-King.**

**Psalm 118:25-26 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> Please, Lord, please save us.

    Please, Lord, please give us success.

<sup>26</sup> Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

    We bless you from the house of the Lord.

**2. Jesus received the praise of the city while already walking toward the surrender of the garden.**

**Luke 19:41-42 (NLT)**

<sup>41</sup> But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. <sup>42</sup> “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.”

**John 18:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

**Palm Sunday is heading somewhere – and it's heading to a garden.**

**Matthew 26:36-39 (NLT) *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane***

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. <sup>38</sup> He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

**Where Adam seized his own way, Jesus surrendered to the Father’s way.**

**The King entered the city in humility because He intended to win in obedience.**

**Genesis 3:8-10 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

3. True faith keeps following when Jesus does not meet our expectations the way we imagined.

**Palm Sunday confronts a shallow version of faith.**

**Faith is not proven in the shout alone, but in the surrender that follows.**

**John 12:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup>His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

**If Jesus is truly King, then He gets to define the path of salvation.**

**A shallow faith praises Jesus when He seems triumphant; mature faith follows Him when He leads into surrender.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup>Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.

**Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup>We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.